

THE DIARY OF JOHN NEWELL EVANS,
Cowichan Pioneer.

Being a record of his voyage
from Southampton, England,
April 2nd, 1864 and his sub-
sequent pioneer life in the
Cowichan Valley.

John Newell Evans

Victoria

Vancouver's Island

British North America

Copy by kind permission of his
daughter, Mrs. Lilian Savage,
Duncan, B.C.

October, 1965

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Things that we want to know about in England

A short sketch of your outward voyage - giving an idea of the accommodation & food on board the steamers. &c. & what you saw on the mainland &c.

A graphic description of Victoria and all other places that you may visit giving always the date of the visit described. -

I want to know the religious state of the towns all about ~~the~~ churches schools &c. - about the religious periodicals or others sold &c. &c. -

Your adventures in the country: how much you get a week &c. &c. together with how much it costs you to live &c. -

And so generally (always giving the exact date of the facts) the general run of wages together the prices of tea sugar flour mutton beef veal ham bacon &c. &c. and milk &c. quart. &c. &c. &c.

Try and give this as if you were writing an article to the newspapers.

Reliable information about the gold mines if possible from your brothers or the best sources available. -

Write regularly one of the three, once a month to some one in England. via W.D. Packet.

W. W. Waight
Post Office. Virginia City
Carson County. Nevada Territory
United States

Sergeant J Sumpson
Master Sailor
3rd West Indian Regiment
Hammam

^{of Passage}
Dinner out to British Columbia in the
La Plata. from Southampton
April 2nd. 1864 Left London. at 8 o'clock
A.M. by South Western Railway from
Waterloo Station for the Southampton Dock
Station where I arrived at 10.20. A.M.
Left the Docks in the tug Boat for the
ship at 11.40. A.M. We set sail from
Southampton waters. 3.20. P.M. we started with
a head breeze and beautiful sea, we went
on very nicely until we went to Bed.
Sunday April 3rd The sea was very rough
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Sunday April 3rd. The sea was very rough
with a head wind most of us was sea sick
and lost all sight of land during the
night. we had no service to day as most of
the Passengers was in their Berths seasick

Monday. A fine morning with strong
head wind, our boat is heaving a good
deal and the Passengers more, all sick
except one or two, our mess room is in the
fore peak so we feel the heaving of the ship
very much there is not many of us that
can sit down to a meal without being
made to run away from the table with
sea sickness we live but very middling as
yet. our chief diet is for Breakfast coffee
bread on the French fashion by the yard
Butter, & hashed meat very tough
and Herring very salt, some ~~very~~
good Bacon, that is for Breakfast

which take place, at 8. o'clock
Dinner at one is Salt-Beef, Salt-
Pork and Ashed Meat. Sometimes
there is a sprinkling of fresh, with
Potatoes, and Bread; Tea at five
with Bread and Butter, that
is our last meal for the day
the lights is put out in the fore
peak at nine o'clock.

My Cabin is shared by three Cornish
men one is going to the silver mines
of Mexico, with some companions on
board the others are going to California
with some more Cornish companions.
So most of our English Third class
passengers, are from Cornwall, there
is two more, Irish, men, for California
one Englishman for Victoria with
one. There is three, sergeant, for the 5th
West-Indian native, regiment -
now forming as passengers on
board, that, I think all the
different parties in the steage, except
a lot of Frenchmen.

Tuesday, The weather much clearer
with a fresh South West-wind, we
sighted a ship, 10, or 12, miles off at 9.30
A.M. home ward bound, 10.30, heavy
swell, on sea with fog, cleared off at noon
2.30 P.M. a ship under full sail about

a mile on our sight; with another
at a great distance.

Wednesday A beautiful morning
with a nice cool Breeze, we spoke to
a schooner home ward bound from
the Western Isles loaded with fruit -
we had the company of a swallow
for several hours, ~~when~~ then he took
his flight; we was then join'd by
a booby a beautiful Bird,
which also took its flight - after, remaining
with us a short time. We had some
good sport of the sailors on board of the
Sea until dark.

Thursday A strong head winds
with heavy sea dashing against
our good ship, the spray dashing
all over the fore decks.

Friday One of the passengers, came
to call us about - six to say the West-
ern Islands, where we sighted when
I got on deck I could see them at a
great distance on the sight - they
look very like the Montgomery Hill,
the highest is call the Peak of St.
Picks is very like the Briden Hill
the top of which is generally cover
with snow. We saw a ship at a
great distance One of the fire men
met with an accident - a pump of

coal fell on his head which fractured his skull the doctor gave very little hope of his recovery

Saturday. We have now been on the mighty deep a week today and another week we hope to run in to St. Thomas. the stoker is a little better

Sunday. A beautiful morning saw a sail at 9.30 A.M. went to church at 10.05 saw three more sails in the afternoon we had preaching in the evening at 7.0 by a minister on board the text was in the 5 chapter of 16 verse of the Epheasms.

Monday. We have had a beautiful day we are 1018 miles for St. Thomas we have run 280 miles during the last 24 hours.

Tuesday. We have seen two sails today, and twelve porpoises and lots of flying fish. we have had an awning over us this last three days and the sea has been as smooth as glass

Friday everything as passed on much the same as usual the last two days but we hope to see land tomorrow morning when we get up

Saturday I turn'd out of my
bunk to see at 5 o'clock to look out
for the America Island. I forgot the
name of it; we saw it about 8 o'clock
it is very small a little schooner
run out of the Harbour as we was
passing and continued its course
before us for sometime the wind took
it along beautiful we passed it
at last we have ninety miles to go
to St. Thomas; we expect to arrive in
in the afternoon, 6 o'clock P.M. we
arrive here at St. Thomas at three
o'clock. I have been ashore and over the
Danish fort and Barracks there is not
many soldiers there their guns are
very bad they have smooth bore
muskets and very short Bayonets
the large guns are very old; they have
a monkey and sack hall in the
Barracks square, the Barracks are very
cool; with good beds, most of the soldiers
can speak English they were asking
us a great many questions about the
Danish war, the town is a good size with
some good large stores, most of the inhabitants
are Blk there is a good deal of shipping in
the Harbour there is two Yankee merchant
ships a fear'd to go out because there
had been an Confederate man in the

Harbour in the morning it left before
we got in, I can't find out the name
of it; there is three ships loading out
of the Laplata, Our is the Biggest.
The Tyone is the name of it, The Conway
is the one for the Gulf of Mexico and a
small screw steamer for Barbadoes
we expect to start to night.

Monday They had agreed to load
of cargo to get into this ship it was
11 o'clock Sunday morning by the
time we started, I like this ship better
than the Laplata we have two staterooms
rooms with bunks in there is about
twelve in each room the Mess is in
the same room we live a great-
deal better in this ship than the
other, the man that waits on us is
a darkey, and all the crew are black
the fire men are white men.

Tuesday we are in sight of Sandyming,
we shall run into the Port of Sack
Mal; to land the mails, We got in
Sack Mal about ten o'clock we stayed
about an hour, we are running under
the side of land all the time it look
a very hilly country it is worse any
than Wales from what I can see of it
we shall run in to Kingstown tomorrow
to morrow morning,

Wednesday We run into Hong Kong Harbour
about half past ten o'clock. the Harbour is a
very fine one but very dangerous to enter as
there is a great many ships in side, we shall
stay here twenty four hours to take in four
hundred tons of coal; there is about fifty Blk
women at work carrying it in on their heads
in wicker baskets. Such as you see apples
in Covent Garden Market. I have been up
in the town the streets is all sand, and in
very bad repair, and the houses are very large
and they too have seen better days the builder
and painter seem to have been strangers to
them for some years. The inhabitants are chiefly
black and creole, and a few Whites carrying on
business, there is some good large ships here
and they appear to be doing a good trade
I went up with Sergeant S. Simpson to
his Quarter at the camp Barracks which is
about a mile and three quarters from the
wharf. They have very nice cool Barracks
and the Blk look very good soldiers, Simpson
walk with me back to the town. I had some
lemonade which they have on shore and
which they charge six pence. The Port
Drum is six pence a quart, and for
a small Bottle of ale and half a pint of rum
for a shilling. I bought six pence worth
oranges 16 of them and 2 pineapples
for six pence.

Thursday, The black women were carrying coal all night last night and sing they shake a woe ful noise, I don't know which their faces or their clothes are the blackest; I went to a west Indian dignity ball last night there was a lot of sailors from the ~~men of~~ ^{men of} War the sailors had ~~stake~~ ^{some} ~~some~~ ^{what} longer than an Irish man's shalady and the darkies and thern were dancing. We left the wharf at eleven o'clock A.M. we are now out of sight of land again ploughing the mighty deep we are due at Colon at 7 P.M. on Saturday some think we shall be too late for the other boat.

Friday Some say one thing and others another about the California boat, I expect we shall be in time if we are not we must do the best that we can.

Saturday we expect to make land this afternoon, about four o'clock, We saw land about five o'clock and anchored at the wharf about five minutes to 7 o'clock I saw the poor old Aron, of London ashore as coming in she was driven there one night about twelve months ago in a storm they cannot get her off. The New York boat arrived here this morning with 1300 passengers they crossed to day about two o'clock.

Sunday, We are ashore at Colon about eight o'clock we were told that we should stay

At ten o'clock for the other side when Ben came there was a notice put up that we should not start before two. After that one of our passengers had to go to the Agent and Agent told him that the boat had started at four o'clock this morning then one of the men in charge of the train said she was there when he left - so when we got here (to Panama) we found the Agent was correct so we shall have to start ^{on} the 3rd of May. All of us Third class passengers have come to the Europa Hotel at a dollar and a quarter per day board and lodging. Colon is a very shabby town it looks better at a distance than in it. All the shops were open and Sailors and Shoemakers at work there is no place of worship open there is a church in the building (Roman Catholic). The country we passed through was chiefly all swamp and small hills there is a great deal of underbrush growing everywhere we came along the side of a good large River. I saw an alligator just on the edge of the Water we saw some good cattle as coming along and in good condition but the Horses pigs and dogs look miserable the Horses are nearly through their skin the pigs and dogs are everywhere there is also a great many mules.

Monday Some of our fellow passengers are disappointed with the accommodations.

so eight of them have left and gone to
the American ^{side}. The other four went to
see their accommodations but I don't like
them as well as our own. We have a great
deal better room since they have gone.
I must say we live very well. The first
thing we have in the morning is a cup of
good coffee and a fresh roll we can have it
any time between 6 A.M. & 10 A.M. we have
what they call Breakfast at 10 A.M. we have two
courses of fresh meat; ham, potatoes, bread, and
a cup of tea. we dine at 4.30 P.M. we have
two courses again and sweets, and a cup of tea
we have tea again before 8 P.M. so I think
the fare is pretty good for a dollar and a quarter
they have to buy the water here men go
about with it in little casks in earls
and on mules backs

Tuesday We have been all around the town
we saw no less than 14 old ruined churches &
monasteries they have been abandoned since
1825; the priest was used to go on with the
folks until the President of New Granada
told them they must either submit to the
law or leave the country they chose the latter
they have had splendid buildings the town
is the same decayed state as Kingston

Wednesday I have been this morning to
change my ticket I cannot find out
when we start no chance to write on the
American Boat

My maiden address delivered at the Corvichan
debating class November 22nd 1871

Subject: Wood vers Iron which most useful
to mankind

Mr. President and Gentlemen

I am truly pleased that the first
subject which ^{we} are to have the honor to debate, is on
the two substances have and are playing such very
prominent parts in this worlds history and civilization.

But still it appears to me to be all put in ~~out~~
the space of a nut-shell by, John Locke who truly observes
that, Were the use of Iron lost among us we should
in a few ages be unavoidably reduced to the wants
and ignorance of the Ancient Savage Americans,

So that he who first made known the use of that
Contemptible mineral, may truly be styled the
Father of Art, and the Author of plenty.

Without Iron we should not have any houses
which is the germ of civilization, or any Cities
which are the centers of Industry. Learning and
civilization.

With only the common crude tools which
Necessity would suggest if there where no Iron in
use, we should not be met here this evening
as the pioneers of this province, for to chop down a tree
would be the work of a season, with a stone hatchet
such as where used by the Ancient and uncivilized
of our own race.

We should not be housed clothed or have any
of the Benefits which we now enjoy, such as

Museum's, Libraries, Magazines and Newspapers,
sowing Knowledge and pleasure broad cast over
the civilized world, which I conceive to be the
greatest blessing of this the 19 century,

We should not enjoy the bond of friendship
with distant far of friends by letters or quicker
still the Magnetic Telegraph, which is the bond
designed to draw Nations together in the bonds
of friendship and peace,

Without the aid of Iron we should not be able to
delve in the bowels of the earth to the depth of
1100 and 1200 feet after what is termed the precious
metals silver and Gold without the chiefest of all
metals Iron, or Steel.

Without Iron we should not have any houses which is the germ of civilization, or any Cities which are the centers of Industry. Learning and civilization.

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Museums, Libraries, Magazines and Newspapers, sowing knowledge and pleasure broadcast over the civilized world, which I conceive to be the greatest blessing of this the 19 century,

We should not enjoy the bond of friendship with distant far off friends by letters or quicker still the Magnetic Telegraph, which is the bond designed to draw Nations together in the bonds of friendships and peace.

Without the aid of Iron we should not be able to delve in the bowels of the earth to the depth of 1100 and 1200 feet after what is termed the precious metals silver and gold without the chiefest of all metals Iron; or deeper still after coal, tin and ^{salt}.

Nor should we have any Banks with their fireproof Vaults and fireproof Iron safes with their Patent Bramah locks for the safe keeping of our valuables Gold, silver and gems.

Again where would our manufactures and commerce be without Iron, we should not have the bright page of our own history, illum'd by the Bright of names of Arkwrights, Watts, Stephenson's, Knaresbroughs, Nasmyth, Huntsmans and a host of others who's names burn brighter than any valor hero's. G. Stephenson said of Iron at the opening of the North Wales Railway (at Bangor) We are daily producing from the bowels of the earth a raw material in its crude state apparently of no worth, but which when converted into a locomotive engine flies over

bridges of the same material with a speed exceeding that of a bird; advancing wealth and comfort throughout the Country. Such Gentlemen are the powers of that all civilizing instrument Iron. Without the Steam engine our manufactures and Commerce would be at a standstill and we should not advance our National wealth. It is due to her Iron and steel that England, still continues to hold the first Rank, among the nations of the earth. And still more to her workers in Iron and steel to her Armstrongs, Withworths and Fairbairns.

Let us pay the French Professor speak of the invention of Cast steel by Benj^r. Huntsman as a memorable discovery made and applied with admirable perseverance, and he claims for the inventor the distinguished merit of advancing the steel manufactures of Yorkshire to the first rank, and powerfully contributing to the establishment on a firm foundation of the industrial and commercial supremacy of Great Britain.

It is to the superiority of English Iron and the Machinery for the manufacture of the same, that she now does the carrying trade of the world.

The Americans press ^{with a good} may rail about the Alabama and other confederate cruisers destroying their carrying trade, but their shipbuilders admit in their report to the U. S. Senate that it is owing to Iron vessels superceeding wooden ones that they cannot compete with the English shipbuilders. The Americans with all their

enterprise have not a single line of Steamship running Eastward from New York. And their home lines of Ocean Steamships have not a single screw vessel in the Passenger trade.

If any one had told our Grand Parent that Iron vessels would float and run from Queens town to New York in eight and nine days they would have thought them fit subjects for a Lunatic Asylum or that we would make steam and Iron plough our land, reap our grain, thrash it, carry it to market, grind it into flour, and become the drudge of man in everything.

I would tell the last speaker that we are not even dependant on coal for smelting Iron, as the Black

contributing to the establishment on a firm foundation of the industrial and commercial supremacy of Great Britain

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If any one had told our Grandparent that Iron vessels would float and run from Green town to New York in eight and nine days they would have thought them fit subjects for a Lunatic Asylum or that we would make steam and Iron plough our land, reap our grain, thrash it, carry it to market, grind it into flour, and become the drudge of man in everything

I would tell the last speaker that we are not even dependant on coal for smelting Iron, as the Black Band Iron ore is fusible in its self.

Again the vast amount of labour Iron gives employment to mankind Scotland Produces 1000 000 tons yearly, at a cost of £1,800 000, giving employment to 50,000, in her furnances of which she employs 125; on Coal principal (the above is the cost of smelting in the furnances which don't include the mine) England produces upward of 4000 000 tons yearly

in our debates we were not followed us
Manuscript only notes J. H. Evans

Arts more attractive than Nature
affirmative W. Duncan Negative L.R.C.

Mr. President

The subject which is to engage our attention this evening is that Arts is more attractive than Nature. In taking up this Negative I would much rather see someone more able and gifted than myself open on the subject which is one of deep interest. But I will try and do my best to show that Nature is more attractive than Arts, if I fail on me the blame and not on Nature.

By arts we understand something to be created out of the Brain of the artist, or the more common occurrence the copying of something from Nature such as the painting of a landscape picture by the painter or the chiseling of a statue by the sculptor in the shape of a human model which we all admire when the Master mind of the artist as well copied his model from Nature, but which is it we admire the copy or the original we praise the artist for the ingenuity of his execution but after all the artist is only portraying Nature, his copy however well executed is only a poor copy of the real. it is the Attraction of Nature which draws him to his art.

Again with the photograph of friends we love to look on a Mother, sister or Brother but it is our love for the original which causes us to value them, the photograph of a perfect stranger would not interest us except for the moment; so with paintings if it was not for Nature

we should not value them more than we do a Barbers pole
painted red and white

The landscape painter is a slave to nature how he toils
at his easel, striving to portray nature in all her loveliness
which throws its enchantment around him, still nature
is more lovely and sublime than anything he can form or
delineate on canvas. Emerson in his essay on nature
says. Indeed it is the magical light of the hour and
the blue sky for a back ground which saves all our works
of art which were otherwise Baubles.

Even Sir Edwin Landseer's sporting pictures would not
have so much attraction for my worthy opponent as the sport
of a good day hunt. it is not many weeks since he was
facing a foot or two of snow on Mount Probst after noble
game deer, and the next day after the ignoble game
swine. I can speak of the latter day and the game which
I helped him to bring to bay and also to drag about half
a mile through the brush and I can assure you Mr. President
that he entered on the sport with a spirit which showed he
enjoyed it, now I do not think he would travel two days
through snow to see the whole collection of Sir Edwin Landseer
works of art which I think is well worth seeing which shows
nature as a strong hold upon him.

Again pictures of fruits are very nice to look upon but
my eye does not relish them as much as my palate does
a peach or a bunch of grapes I am quite willing for my
worthy friend to have all the arts if he will leave me the
fruits of Nature, they are much more to my taste than
picture or wines.

what painter or what language can portray the loveliness

of a waterfall or a dewdrop sparkling so brightly in the
gorgeous morning sun, or a gushing spring bursting from
the virgin earth. Paul Denton come nearer to it than
anything I have met with in his apostate to Water

There is the liquor which God the eternal brews for his
children not in the simmering still over smoky fires choked
with poisonous gasses and surrounded by the stench of
sickening odors and rank corruptions doth your Father in
heaven prepare the precious essence of life the pure cold water
but in the green glade and grassy dell where the red
deer wanders and the child loves to play, there God himself
brews it and down down in the deep valleys where the
fountain murmurs and the rills ring and high on the

a mile through the bush and I can assure you Mr. Prescher that he entered on the sport with a spirit which showed he enjoyed it, now I do not think he would travel two days through snow to see the whole collection of Sir Edwin Landseer's works of Art which I think is well worth seeing which shows nature as a strong hold upon him.

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There is the liquor which God the eternal brews for his children not in the simmering still over smoky fires choked with poisonous gasses and surrounded by the stench of sickening odors and rank corruptions doth your Father in heaven prepare the precious essence of life the pure cold water but in the green glade and grassy dell where the red deer wanders and the child loves to play, there God himself brews it and down down in the deep valleys where the fountain murmurs and the rills ring and high on the tall mountain tops where the naked granite glitters like gold in the sun where the storm cloud hoods and the thunder tones crash and far out on the wide wide sea where the hurricane hurls music and the big waves roar the chorus, sweeping the march of God there he brews it that beverage of life health giving water, and everywhere it is a thing of beauty gleaming in the dew drop ringing in the summer rain shining in the ice gem till the trees ^{all} seem turned to living jewels, spreading a golden veil over the setting sun or a white gauze around the midnight moon, sporting in the cat's paw sleeping in the glacier dancing in the hail shower folding its bright snow curtains softly around the wintry world weaving the many colored iris that seraph zone of the sky whose roof is the sunbeams of heaven all checked over with celestial flowers by the magic hand of refraction still always it is beautiful that blessed life Water.

What Artist can draw the bursting Volcano or the sublime
lightning flash we have toiled untill it is brought into
subjection to man will, and bears his thoughts to the
extreme ends of the earth this Mr. President is the
great discovery of this the nineteenth century and is
entirely owing to Nature and the attraction which it
had for Franklin, and others before him which as given
us the Telegraph. the most dreaded of Natures Agents
becomes harmless when we know Natures Law's

Nature is the great Artist which all try to copy she
makes no mistakes in her pictures the colouring is
perfect even to the shade all blend together in harmony
together.

The sculptor however well he creates marble into
statues and models he with all his striving and toil
cannot equal much more excel the original he is
a slave to Nature Nature is his schoolmaster and
a very hard one at that with the toil of ages and the
cultivation of the refined senses our own sculptors
cannot excel those of ancient Greece after a toil of
nearly 3000 years. even models in wax fall very far short
of the human frame no art or skill of hands or brains
can produce anything near equal to it. the sleeping
beauty of madame Tisards does not draw so much
attraction as the beauties of flesh or blood; to wit. Madame
proves that the living beauties carry the day by their
personal attractions and stronger attraction of natural
manners and actions

Poets of all ages and countries have been attracted
to Nature and have sung Natures praises from Homer
to Tennyson and in none more recent than in the
verse to Nature which I think is by Cowper

Nature is a temple worthy the ~~which~~ ^{love} learns with light and
Whose flowers so sweetly bloom below whose stars rejoice above
Whose altars are the mountain cliffs that rise along the shore
Whose anthems the sublime accord of storm and Ocean roar
speaking of Poets remind me of what one immortal poet
as said of another what Dryden said of Shakespeare was
the man who, of all modern and perhaps ancient poets had
the largest and most comprehensive soul. All the images
of Nature were still present to him and he created them

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Whose altars are the mountain cliffs that rise along the shore
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speaking of Poets remind me of what one immortal poet
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the man who, of all modern and perhaps ancient poets had
the largest and most comprehensive soul. All the images
of Nature were still present to him and he drew them
not laboriously but luckily; when he describes anything
you more than see it you feel it too, Those who accuse him
of wanting learning, give him the greater commendation
he was naturally learned. He needed not the spectacles
of books to read, Nature he looked inwards and found
her there,

Not only Poets but all other writers either give the record
of Natures events or draw their substance from Nature
even the romances as to go to nature for the ground work
of his novels, and the novels which draw the truest
pictures of Nature are most valued such as Charles
Dickens and a host of other writers and books on
travels are pictures of nature in different climes
from Capt. Cooks voyages to Capt. Mc Clintocks
arctic sea and North west passage and Capt
Livingstons Africa to Sturats the Australia travels

they are all hunted after different features of Nature and are attracted by Nature to explore unknown land and seas.

Mechanical Arts are copies of human hands in the weaving of clothes of different kinds it was through seeing of his wife knitting which caused the Rev W Lee, to invent the stocking frame for the Machine Knitting of hose; and to reduce the labours of his wife; such Mr. President is the foundation of all Mechanical Art, they either originate through a demand for Machinery; or to lift a load of some ones shoulders and ease the burden of their labour and not so much attraction for the Art as to supply a want; the steam hammer was invented by Nasmyth to supply a want at the time of the building of the Great Britain steamship when it was found that no firm in England was capable of forging the shaft for her paddle wheels when Nasmyth was applied to, he set to work and invented this steam hammer although not used on the Great Britain shaft as the design was changed and she was supplied with a screw instead of a paddle wheels

Astronomy is one of the most sublime of all sciences in every thing else man can cope with what comes before him but in Astronomy he learn what a poor feeble worm he is when compared with his maker And all Astronomers are attracted to Nature in watching the movements of the different heavenly bodies they have watched nature so close that they

are able to tell of many thing before they appear such as comets and eclipses of the sun and moon

Geologists are also attracted to Nature in working out the formation of the earth. Nature is his teacher and Nature laws guide him to work out the Problem of the different strata of which the earth is formed and to fix the dates of the different formations; Hugh Miller the Geologist speaks of toil and Nature Save for thee and thy lessons man in society would everywhere sink into the sad condition of feral and wild beast and this fallen world would be certainly a moral and natural

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Hugh Miller the Geologist speaks of toil and Nature. Save for thee and thy lessons man in society would everywhere sink into the sad compound of fiend and wild beast and this fallen world would be certainly a moral and natural wilderness. but I little thought of the excellence of thy character and of thy teachings, when with a heavy heart, I set out about this time of a morning of early spring to take my first lesson from thee in a stone quarry. Necessity which made him a quarry man taught him to be a Geologist speaking of his discovery in the Scottish Lias lying athwart some of the pages thus strangely inscribed we occasionally find, like the dark Hawthorn leaf in Bewicks well known vignette, slim shap'd leaves coloured in deep umber, and branches of extinct pines and fragments of strangely fashioned ferns form their ordinary garnishing page after page repeat the same wonderful story

The great Alexandrian Library with its tomes of Ancient literature the accumulations of long ages was but a meagre collection not less puny in bulk

than recent in date compared with this marvelous
library of the Scotch Lias.

The Zoologist is attracted to nature in his
research after different animals and the collections
of Museums and Zoological gardens are indebted
to the Zoologist. we who have spent any portion
of our lives in large cities know how they are
crowded ^{with visitors} if a new specimen be added to the
collection. I well remember when the first Quail
was first shown in London and the large number
of visitors who flocked to see it showing what
an attraction there is in nature for the human
mind

The Botanist is also attracted to nature in
his research after different plants, the number of
useful plants is stated by a German to be 12 000
with other parts of the world to be ~~ad~~ examined
even this as been an enormous amount of labour
to have even 12 000 plants classed and different
uses found for each separate plant.

Public Parks in large towns and private gentlemen's
Parks are copies of nature in miniature they are to
a certain extent artificial which tend all the more
to show how much nature is prized by mankind
Even the Yankees of Maine been said they could
not see anything good or beautiful unless there
was a dollar in it, are expending an enormous

amount of dollars to have a piece of nature in
New York in their central park,

My worthy opponents as never been shut up in
a large town where cuts are plentiful and
nature other wise, or he would know what a pleasure
it is to get out into the country of a fresh morning
and be with nature, I have therefore I can better
appreciate nature in all its loveliness and fresh-
ness many times have I longed for the country
with its hedgerows of ever green, for

Sweet is the breath of a fair dewy morn
Sweet is the spring when the roses are born

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Tourist from large cities are attracted to Nature
how the London tourist travel after the beautiful
in Nature as soon as the spring sets in some rush
of to the seaside some to the westmoreland lakes
some to the Highland some to the alps and else
where, all attracted by nature to leave their
counters desks and tools behind them and
be with nature

Now Gentlemen I will close with one remark
that all love flowers which is one of Nature's Gems
Even my worthy opponent cultivates some of them
which show he is attracted to Nature not only in
cultivating flowers but all farm produce he
certainly would not plant if nature did not
grow.

Nature is loved by what is best in us, we are all
Nature's children; in all sciences and arts we are
paying her the highest homage we possibly
can by concentrating our best energies and abilities
to her. May our arts become more worthy
of the Great Artist Nature.

January 4th / 1872.

John Newell Evans

Reminiscences of a life time John R Evans
Born Lower Pentthorpe Berins- Montgomeryshire
May 9th 1846. An old Farm House thatched
would say the thatched about a foot deep, one
storey with Rooms under the thatch used as
bed rooms for working men and boys, some 6
rooms above stairs the floor of all except 2 were
of flag stones you had to pass from one Room into each
other no hall or passage ways - bed rooms all had
great four posted Bedsteads hung with curtains
all would what in today would call double beds
never saw any single or three quarter Beds, no
stoves not even a cook stove, open fire places some
fire places had a brick oven set in behind with
a sheet of steel at back of fire place - Roast meat
was cooked by hanging in front of fire by a string
from the ceiling or by a Sack; you kept both
turning around all the time with a pan under
neath to catch the dripping from the meat and
you would have a spoon to lift the dripping to
pour over the the meat to keep it wet - so it
would not burn & nearly every farm house had
a large Brick Oven in what we usually called
the back Kitchen, and it was usually heated
with brush which came from trimming the hedges
every year and was stacked in the yard for
use in the oven, Baking usually once a week
a open fire place in the living ^{Room} burnt both wood
and coal in it. Most of our light was tallow
dips made at home with tin molds was also
your mold would be four or six Candles you
Some farms burnt peat cut from Bogs

hung your wick in mold the bottom of your mold would be the top of your candle for it was tapered to a point and the wick would fill the space so the fat would not run out; then when you filled your mold it did not take long for it to cool and set; you reversed the mold and your candle came out. But tallow dips were not the principal light by any means the usual light was the rush light; you went into the swamps or bogs places and gathered the green Rushes took them home peeled them leaving a piece of a narrow strip to hold the center or pith together then you dried the stripped rush; when dried you got a pan of hot-grease pretty well boiling take your dried Rush and draw it through your hot-grease untill it could absorb no more grease; put them in a pan to drain then let them dry there is your light; but anything but brilliant one, and we had a clip on a stand somewhat higher than your table. The clip was somewhat like a clothes peg - and it took a lot of attention to move it along in the clip, my recollections of my early boyhood, was going to school, my first school teacher was an old widow, I do not know what fees were paid but later schools was one penny a week and I do not know what the qualifications were had to walk something over half a mile my elder Bros and sisters went to ~~Birmingham~~

Berriew some two miles further on
the same Road I went to Berriew later
Berriew was an endowed school you paid
one penny per week for the first two children
of one family; the rest went free; and the
School furnished all Books, slates, and
every else needed free; I have seen many schools
all over the world since and have never met
with any nearly its equal; the Master and
Mistress were fully qualified teachers plenty
of Black Boards, Maps, Globes, the assistants
to the Principals were pupil teachers, Teachers
in training who served so long and then
went to some College to get their Certificates
to teach; we had a fairly large play yard
enclosed by a stone wall some ten or twelve
feet high, the Girls had also a similar play
ground on the other side of the building - I had
not mentioned there were both boys and girls
attending the school, the school building
was a two story stone building the girls were
up stairs = after attending Berriew school
I was sent to a private school taught by an
old crippled man, who had been a companion
of my father's in their boy hood he lived in
the opposite direction from Berriew and
his qualifications, he could teach the three
R's - while his hands were all broken up
he was a fine penman, that was his only

qualification to teach, he had no map or
any other equipment for teaching, I think
the reason my father sent me to him was to
help the old fellow along I don't know how
the poor old fellow lived I think a good deal
on the left over of the childrens lunches
my Mother died when I was about ten years old
and very soon after, the home and nearly all
the buildings were burnt down, the Land
Lord would not rebuild, so the home was
broken up, some cousins of my mother's living
in London, Mr Arbu and his youngest son
Edward gave me a home and sent me to a
private school in Louise Belgrave Place
supposed to be one of the best schools in London
it was not nearly so well equipped as was
the Berriew; not nearly so many maps and
no library and I have doubt if our teachers
were so good, however I attended it for a
year or more, when I was sent to Shrewsbury
to a cousin who owned a Drapery business
on Bride Hill, I was to have been apprenticed
to him, for some reason my father came and
took me home to Wales, he was then living
on a small farm, near Llandisil, had
been home sometime when I again went to
London, and got apprenticed to Wm Bunting
13 Kings Street - Covent Garden the back
windows look out upon the old graveyard
in the Drapery Business

of St Pauls Covent garden and on front
opposite the Garrick Club; Bunting was
a widower had two unmarried daughters
who kept house and also worked in the store
they later got married that up set the
home arrangements and broke up the
house keeping so the old gentleman decided
to go out of business and we sold up the
stock and I was relieved of my apprenticeship.
I got employment with a Mr Knight on
the Wallworth Road that was in 1860
I worked with him untill May 1862 - My
two elder Bro's decided on coming to
British Columbia; May 1862; so I
wanted time of to see them away from
Southampton I asked Mr Knight for
a days leave so I could accompany them
to Southampton. he refused to grant it; so
I quit the job right then; and saw them
away to B.C. I next got a job in the
East-End of London, in Bishopgate St.
I only worked a few weeks, when I was
taken ill, and he order me to the Country
so I went home to Wales - to my Uncle's, when
I recovered I again went to London and
got employment with the Bennetts on
Brixton Hill I staid with them untill
the New year of 1864 when I decided I
would join my Brothers in British Columbia
the Bennetts were a nice family. My Mother Son
and daughter was very happy there

I went down to Wales and staid with
different Relatives and friends untill I
left April 2nd 1864 for B.C.

In the front of this Book you will find a
Diary of my trip out as far as Panama, from
there to Victoria there was no chance to visit
the accomadation on the Boats on the Pacific
were vile - we had good Cabins and good
food on the British Boats, but on the accomadation
and food on the American Boats was vile.
When we got to Aspinwall on the East side
of the Isthmus of Panama, we arriv in the
evening, the New York boat had got in a
a few hours a head; and she was more
than full with passengers; in 1864 the
Great American Civil war was raging
people were getting away from the draft
and the lure of Gold in California was
the cause of it; the draft was never enforced
in any of the Pacific States; well the Railways
Authorities told us they would take us
across in the morning in time to connect
with the San Francisco boat; alas in the
morning we found she had pulled out
as 3 a.m, leaving us behind, we crossed
to Panama in morning to wait 70 days
for the next sailing. Aspinwall in those
days was a dirty port; Panama was
a clean old town with many old Ruins.

buildings churches &c. but a nice clean
place, a few of us found accomidation
in the European Hotel, clean Room and Bed
and board \$1²⁵ per day, and the food was
good the best Tea; or at least in those days
and still do think it was the best Tea that
I ever drank; my recollection of my stay there
are pleasant memories, but my memories
of the trip up the Pacific Coast are not so pleasant
we had got aboard the San Francisco boat
and settled in our Berths before the next
New York boat had arrived, the accomidation
was vile; tier upon tier of bunks and on each
four or five in each tier and only a narrow
passage way between the bunks, straw
mattresses, none to clean; and no bed clothes
if you did not have any Blankets or Ruggs
you went without; and perhaps the food
was even worse it was served on tables
hung from the deck above by Sawn Rods
tin plates tin Cups & meat and potatoes
served in great tin dishes and if you reached
your fork for a helping you may get two or
three forks stuck into your hand; having
come aboard a day before the New Yorkers
I had made the acquaintance of one of the
Stewards so got food all the way up the
Coast to San Francisco, that was the worst
travel I have ever made, we had a

Very smooth pleasant trip up to San Francisco, it was well we did if anything appeared at sea to attract the passengers attention on either side naturally the passengers would flock to that side to see what it was; then you would hear the Officers Ross trim ship to keep the top heavy old Sub on an even keel; well we got safely into San Francisco, but again delay as we were going into the Golden Gate the entrance to San Francisco Harbor, and here we might ^{say} one of the finest harbour in the world both land locked and well protected; we met the boat for Victoria direct coming out of the Golden Gate; the next one would go up the Columbia River to Portland before she proceeded to Victoria; and a stay of ten days in San Francisco; however it gave a chance to see the different stopping places on the way. It was well I had enough of funds to see me through; quite a change in San Francisco since then; and all over the Pacific Coast; No over-land Railway or Telegraph then. And Thrice Street from Montgomery to the water front; were all planted and oh after sun down Kati and then Mon Kati you could scarcely put your foot down with out stepping on one and out a corner marked; then the old Mission and the

11207
sand Hills & the sand was alive
with them; but there is a brighter picture
of that wonderful City which I think I
should copy here by Ida N. Coolbrith

City by the Golden Gate

Little the goodly fathers
Building their Missions here
By the lone, untraversed waters,
In the Western solitude;
Dreamed of the Wonderful City
That looks on the stately Bay
Where the pennoned ships of the Nations
Float in their pride today,
Dreamed of the beautiful City,
Proud on her tawny height,
And strange as a flower up springing
To bloom in a single night,
For so but a moment lifting
The veil of the years away
We look on a well known picture
That seems but as yesterday
The mist rolls in at the gateway
Where never a fortress stands
On the blossoms of San Carlos
And Yerba Buena's sands
Swathing the shores were only
The sea birds came and pass
And drift with the drifting water
By desolate Alcatraz,

We hear when the night drops down
And the bay throbs under the stars
The Ocean-voices blending
With the ripple of soft guitars
With chiming bells of the Mission
With passionate minors sung
Or a quaint Castilian ballad
Lilted in the Spanish tongue
Fair from thy hills O City
Look on the beautiful bay
Ponder far is the vision
Greeting our eye's today
Better the thronged waters
And busy streets astir
Purple and silken raiment
Balsam and balm and myrrh -
Gems of the further Indies
Gold ~~fallen~~ ^{of} thy own rich mine
and the pride and boast of the people
O beautiful Queen are thine
Praise to the goodly fathers
With banners of faith unfurled
Praise to the sturdy heroes
Who have ~~us~~ won thee to the world
That was a day to dream of
That was a life we led
Bleeding the veins of the mountains
Draining the torrents bed
Searching the dusky Cañon

Tracking the pathless glen
He shot the knife and the struggle
With savage beasts and men
But blessed in the rest that follows
For the thought of a labor past
Blessed in the homes we have builded
The peace and rest at last
And blessed indeed the winter
That nurses the smiling spring
When hands the seed have scattered
May gather the blossoming
Certainly a most beautiful and lovely
city; well our stay came to an end and
we boarded the old tub the ~~Boston~~ The
Pacific (she was later lost) for Victoria;
by the way of Portland we crossed the
Columbia River bar the entrance to the
Columbia River and on up to Portland
not much of a town in those days, the
principal ^{business} then was the Brewery we staid
here two days discharging freight and
taking freight; ^{on} she did not call into
Portland on her return from Victoria so
she took on freight for San Francisco and
there were no steam Winches in those days
however at last we were going down the
River and loaded for Victoria after a
good passage we arrived in the straits
just as the sun was rising one fine

June morning it was a beautiful sight
looking at the wooded hills all clothed
in green; it was the first glimpse of my
future home. we landed at Esquimalt and
walked in to Victoria our baggage was
brought around to Victoria by a little old
steamer named the Emily Harris after the
wife of the first Mayor of Victoria. My two
elder Brothers had come to British Columbia
during the Cariboo Gold Rush in 1862 they
did not get so far; Many a disappointed Gold
seeker was on their way back; so they decided
to stay and work on the Old Cariboo Road
at Yale. Nearly every one in the earlier days
of B.C. returned to Victoria for the winter
so then many one roomed cabins built all
over town, most along Store Street and
Humboldt Street had both returned to Yale
in 1862, and also to Victoria for the winter;
in 1863 my elder Brother went to Cariboo
David staid on in Victoria lived in
a cabin of Store Street, working odd days
around town when I arrived in June 1864;
so when I had been here a few days I found
there was plenty of work building Roads
around Victoria. I went out to interview
Charles Ash on the Craig Flower Road
he had a contract from Craigflower to
Parsons Bridge. I got work both for myself

and my brother so we moved out to the
Aske Camp my first days work was
just under where E & N Ry Bridge crosses the
road by the four mile house, and oh my
poor hands they were just raw skin all
peeled of them; some the boys told Aske the
state they were in; so he stoped and asked me
to show them to him; so he sent me into
camp for a few days, We had nearly finished
the job when that never to be forgotten Gold
Rush to Leach River broke out; Victoria went
gold mad; Craighflower Road was just
black with ^{gangs} all the Road gang except myself
and an old Scotchman joined the stamped
we stuck to Charlie untill we finished
up the job, well when I got to Victoria I
was looking for a job I run across Billy
Sydes who owned a team of horses and
was teaming around Victoria; he had work
for Aske, so he sent me to see Rodrick Finlay
at the Hudson Bay store; ~~and~~ Wharf street that
he needed a man, Finlayson Wife and the
man who working around Finlaysons home
had some trouble, over Finlayson Boy, but
I found when I saw Finlayson they had
settled everything and the man was staying
on, but he sent me along to his Mother in
law's work at Hillside, I do not know if Mr
Work was a half Breed or a full Blood
Indian

any way when I got there I hunted up
Old Billy Pottinger he had charge of the
outside work he took me to see the old Lady
stated I wanted work and she said she
wanted a man that were the trouble came
in, I must have been a hard looking guy;
but she would not give me work until I went
to Finlayson and got a certificate of character
which I declined to do as Mr. Finlayson was
a stranger to me, so I did not get work,
when we left Mr. Pottinger took me over
the Road to Carters who then rented Hill
side farm, which belonged to the Work
Estate; it was just noon and they were all
in at grub, and it was in the middle of
harvest. Yes Carters did want a man and was
one badly to bind Oats, after a cradle and
he did not ask for any ^{reference} ~~reference~~ simply
if I could bind Oats and I said I had
bound Oats, so I went in had lunch, or
I think we in those days called it dinner.
it was the chief meal of the day and went
out to the field with the Cradler while I had
bound Oats and Wheat at home and had
learned to make a band in the English
way it was a slow way the cradler
showed me how to make it in the American
way so pretty soon I could keep up with
him cradling, and its good work to

Up with a Cradle - I staid with
Carter untill we finish harvest - when
Harry King of Church Farm Cedar Hill
came and asked me to go and work for
him, while in those days there were not many
acres of cleared land on the Church Farm
which belong to Bishop Hills, Harry was
paying \$500⁰⁰ per year rent and clearing
land all the time which the Bishop did
not pay for; Harry was running considerable
of a milk buisness in Victoria, milked
about 20 cows, used to buy a lot of feed
principally Brewer's grain from the Brewer
and California Wild Oat Hay; a lot was
baled and shipped to Victoria, it used to
grow all over the California Plains today
you can only find it in enclosed Comestium
or some were fenced of; I worked at Cedar
Hill away into the fall and I could see
he had too many men so I quit and went
to another Milk man down on Moss Street
the Name of Geo Pierce - or it should be
Pear's he had only two Acres rented from
Judge Pemberton; run his Cows in the
bush and on Beacon Hill; bought his
hay and Brewer grain and some milk feed
grew Potatoes on the land he kept about 10
or 12 Cows he made money and he kept
it to, I remember on 24th of May we as

us at had our Celebration on Beacon Hill, and we were both there a kind friend thought he had more use for a few dollars and anything else that was laying around, walked in and helped himself to what he could carry of without being seen, I was the principal loser I lost two watches and ~~was~~ about \$20⁰⁰ in Cash I had left home - but they were looked, an old 3 gallon rusty milk tin hanging from the rafters of the Cabin which contained \$600⁰⁰ in silver, so George lost but very little, the dairy herd of paid well while the dairy man bought most of his feed and then as now he would have some bad milk Bill which he could never collect; I worked some 9 or 10 months in his employ when I returned to work for Harry King, the general pay by the month at that time was \$35⁰⁰ per month and Board; Harry King was one of the finest men I have ever worked for, and he would not think of asking you to do any work he would not do himself I worked for him up to the day I left to go to the Gold Mines in California, He drove me and Jim Lawrence and me down to the boat to see us off, we went away in the fall of 1866 - my Brother Jim had gone down some months previously and was working steadily at \$3⁰⁰ per day so many people would think that it would be

a far better pay I have experienced but
would say you would save more working at \$35⁰⁰
per month faround a mining Camp or Town some
thing would allways be cropping up to cause you
to expend money were you would not think of it
on the Ranch and was valy ^{we} did not get in a full
Month's work. However we were away to that land
of sunshine Fruit and Flowers - any it is a wonder
full Country within her borders you can grow
from the Semi-Tropic to the temperate Zone or
we may say from the Tropic to perpetual snow. I
seen were we marked Trees with 20 feet of a
snow fall. Yes a most-wonderfull Climate, yet
it's heat is not oppressive you can easily sleep during
the night. I returned there in 1866 - my destination
was the gold mines in and around Forest
Hill a ridge running from the foot hills to
the Summit of the Sierra Nevada, a land that
had produced lot of Gold - were the miners
had built many many miles of great Ditches
to carry the water which they washed away
the great Gravel Beds in which the Gold
had be stored from remote Ages, but I cannot
picture to the reader of these lines the marvel of
it all, but I must try and give you the impression
left upon my mind. you must remember there was
no Great Overland Railway the Vision was then
just dawning upon those men who a few years
later built that wonderfull band of steel that was
to link the Atlantic to the Pacific

Well arriving in San Francisco our next
morning was up the muddy Sacramento River
to the City of Sacramento arriving there we
took stage's for different points mine was
along the Route to Auburn which in a very
few years was the Route adapted by the Great
Central Pacific Railway, but leaving
Sacramento by stage the traveler would not
be very favorable impressed by the appearance
of the country for the making of future home's
a dry desolate land all brown and here
a few starved sheep running there on
but what a change was in the making
the miner in the development of his mine
had brought water in great Ditches from
the high Sierra Mountains along the high
ridges across Canyon's by means of high
Tunnels and flumes to convey the water he
needed to carry on his mining, and then
came a dark day for the mining interest, they
could no longer ^{send} ~~was~~ their debris down the
Canyon and Rivers which was choking up
the Rivers and overflowing her Valley land
but perhaps it was a blessing in disguise
for there was the water waiting for the
farmer to do his irrigation, which as brought
forth such wonderful crops that all the
world wonder's producing crops that
no other spot on the earth can compare or
compete with her, but my mission to

California was not the production of
Crops, but to dig into her Mountains for that
precious matter Gold, while gold had been
produced from her what we may call
her surface mining it had now entered
another stage the drifting into old River
Beds over which the old Rivers had flowed
ages and ages ago; leaving their deposits
that some future generation may dig up
many of the old Beds were many hundred
feet from the earth's surface and perhaps
the same from the bedrock; and when the
miner gives a thought to those things he
may begin to realize what a penny thing he
is himself; but we certainly want to leave
some Records of the drift-Gold mining of
California; and here I would boldly assert
with out fear of the fact "that there are
other miners in existence who may make
a claim for them as the best of all; but
were are they when something crops up that
upsets all they had previously learned of
mining; they are generally suspicious; I have
seen them; so I know were of I speak; but
the drift-Gold miner is never at a loss he
always on the look out for trouble for it is
always at his elbow; take the difference
with a Coal miner nearly always a good
roof; the Gold drift-miner always a bad
roof; need of timber from start to finish

often he as to force ~~the~~ having a head of
his work to keep up his roof; it would not
do to allow his roof to leak or it would leave
a space that would keep pouring down
all the time; and the miner had to carry
his timber up close to the face of his work
so I certainly doff my cap to the drift Gold
Miners of California, and I made many friends
during my stay in that sunny land, perhaps
the happiest days of my life I spent there; I found
good noble hearted men and women; of whom
I made friends, my return to B.C. was caused
by the death of my Bro Jim's wife she left a
little girl behind, without any one except her
father to look after her, so my wife decided we
must return, I had in the mean time married
Mary Jane Davis of Nortonville and brought
her to Cowichan to live but a short stop I had
to return with her to California on account of
sickness, so when Jim's wife died we had
again to reverse it; and return to B.C.
we have seen many changes all over the
Pacific Coast during the many years of
residence here, when we first came you may
say it was all a dense forest; take for
instance Duncan's, the east side of the Railway
was covered by a heavy thick growth of Maple
and Alder timber; growing very thick on
the ground on the West side a heavy growth
of second growth pine but oh so thick and

long; and our tools were not such as we have today single bitted axes, saws with no lance tooth or rackets to draw out the saw dust; we had no stumping powder all clearing was done by manual labor so you of the present-day cannot begin to picture what the old pioneers had to face. The first thing he did after establishing himself in his cabin, would decide were in the thicket he would do his first clearing. Having decided that point, he would start under brushing it; by cutting all the under brush and pile it into heaps on the ground; he would follow up this by gradually cutting and piling the larger and longer growth but cutting the larger trees into log length and limbing them all up; and piling the limbs upon the brush piles; most of the trees so cut was the saving of labor later. The green tree was far easier to cut into lengths green than later when it become dry or half dried; so the more carefull you did the first work you saved labor later. So when you had brushed and chopped what you had estimated you could do - you would have left a fire guard around you chopping to keep your fire; when you did burn out of the green timber; to save your labor later when you would extend your chopping

you would not want to be cutting into
dried stuff, in chopping down the larger
and longer trees you would chop them into
log lengths while still green for the same
purpose of saving time later, cutting the
trees into lengths you were looking forward
to a logging Bee; when you invite your
neighbours near and far to attend a logging
Bee; you would have been preparing for it
for some time in advance, first you would
lay in a stock of handspikes for many would
be broken during the Bee, and you must
bear in mind our Pioneers were the Cream of
the Race wherever they came from, and at an
age when manhood was in its prime; and
muscle was well developed; so when the pioneer
got his handspike underneath a log either
the log rolled or the handspike broke; you
very probably have two or three yokes of Oxen to
haul the logs into piles - and you would
make your Bee up into so many gangs so
many men to a gang and a Captain to every
gang, and at the word go you would see
the logs move into piles, we did not
burn the log piles the day we rolled them up
only logs that required two or more men were
rolled up; smaller logs were left until
the next day when they would be fired and
the smaller logs piled on as the fire burned

the piles; and we all, ~~was~~ there to
work and every one did his best. The
following day the owner of the land would
begin to fire up the piles. He would generally
start his fire on the top of the pile by
gathering up the small dry stuff laying
around, and pile it on to the fire; and
then he would keep rolling in the logs
as they burned; plenty of work to keep the
fires stirred up and picking the small
stuff and also raking up the chips all
laying around. Nearly every settler would
own a Blacksmiths made Rake; with
longer teeth than the bought store Rake.
Yes, the burner would find plenty of employ-
ment; and he usually worked a little quicker
than he usually did, to keep up with his
work, yes well say when burning he kept
up his speed and then having raked over
the ground he would be able to see many of
the larger roots extending from the stumps
he would cut and grub them up to burn, most
of the smaller stumps he would grub up
and then he would try to flow between the
stumps slow heart breaking work calling
for the patience of Job. Then came the
rowing and Harrowing with a little
home made Harrow, usually made of three
triangular poles, Blacksmiths made teeth
holes bored and teeth driven in tight

harvesting came next. wheat was often reaped with sickle. slow work but it was in better state when you considered how you were going to thrash; with the flail or more commonly called the poverty stick, you placed your sheaves on the thrashing floor usually half a dozen or a dozen at a time; half of them pointing to the center of the floor from one way the others from the other way points slightly over lapping; then your work would begin; to beat the sheaves with your flail if the grain had not been properly harvested and was on the tough side, you would lam your grain; well having laid your sheaves upon thrashing floor you would do considerable pounding upon them before you would move them, then you would turn them over and go at them again. Next time you would untie the sheaves and pound them untill you could see no grain fly from the flail blow; then you would take your fork and well shake the straw - and throw the straw away and shake or rake all the longer straw left in the grain from the floor, and push back the grain to one side of the floor and repeat your thrashing program. When the floor would get crowded with grain you would stop your thrashing and clean up your grain, your thrashing floor would had door's or opening

on each side. if you were fortunate enough to own a fanning mill or could borrow one from your neighbours you would get to work and clean up your grain and stow it away, if lacking a fanning mill you would pile your grain to one side and with your two (2) doors open you would take a shovel and throw your threshed grain as high as you could up against the wall between your two doors of the thrashing floor; the wind between the doors would carry the chaff away and the grain being heavier would fall in a heap, you may have to repeat according to your wind, but many was the device adopted by Romans, what changes are taking place all the time the flail was replaced, perhaps first by spreading the grain upon the thrashing floor then driving your horse over it to tramp out the grain, then came the horse power, in America the tread power one or two horses, the tread was an endless apron you elevated it about a pitch of 45° and placed your belt on your machine place your horse in the tread it would be necessary for him to be shod with good toe caps to keep his feet on the tread, a hard vile thing on a horse, but he had far more power than on a sweep power they were generally in use in the early days of America horse power, but I don't think they ever made you had a Brake on your horse power

any head way in England, in the early 60's
the swath power was in full force. I can well
remember my father owning one which he hired
out to neighbors at so much per day he sent
two men and four horses with it; those were
soon followed with steam power which cleaned
the grain and then the change was made by
the change of so much per bushell of grain
but looking back we cannot see any ^{reduction} ~~reduction~~
~~reduction~~ in cost of thrashing. My old friend
Wm Robertson of Westholme used to go around
thrashing with his flail at 10¢ a Bushell
Oats and 12½¢ for wheat. Your big power
machines cannot reduce those figures; when
you add up all the costs, but we have made
good progress when we compare the syckle
or the sythe with our binders that most
wonderfull of invention the Automatic Binder
that when so much grain get into its arms
extend the string around the Bundle and
ties it up automatically and cuts off the string
and now carries the bundles and drops them
in bunches to be stacked up; to dry, then you
would haul it into the Barn to be thrashed
the same work year after year, our crop
yield per acre are not so favorable as in
the Pioneer days when the land was in
its virginity, today more care is required
in cultivating it; the many little & vicious
roots have disappared out of the soil leaving

More compact and not so easy to work
but I also think the trouble is with the man
and not the soil we try to cultivate to
many acres, we want to do the work in a
easy manner, riding a sulky plow skimming
the surface, instead of stirring up the soil so
it could hold moisture for the growing crop
and we don't follow our rotation crops
enough.

In the foregoing no mention as been made
to Churches, School or any other gathering
and they were all way to the fore perhaps
the Churches should be placed before school.
They came first. My old friend Father
Roundault was the first Priest or Preacher
to come to the District in fact he was the
second white man to settle in the Cowichan
District the late Jack Humphrys was the
first, if memory serves me right Humphrys
came in 1857 - Roundault in 1858 that was
four years before the great great Cariboo
Gold Rush; but it was the year of the
Fraser River Gold Rush, we have had many
Rushes to different spots in the Province but
the three principal ones Fraser River 1858
Cariboo 1862 - and the Leech River in
1864, when Victoria went Gold Mad the
Craigflower Road was black with men, I
was at that time working for Charlie Ashe
nearly finishing his contract when all

his men quit except myself and an
old Scotchman, an old Hudson Bay man
we staid with him to finish up; after we
had finished and gone into Victoria
Belt we are now considering churches
The Pioneer priest was that noble old
man the Reverend Father Roundell
who built the old stone church over looking
Cowichan Bay which stands as a monument
to his memory. The best Christian I have ever
met, and during my stay in London during
my younger days, I met through my friends
the Abbe's the most prominent Clergy of
the day - allways attended the Exeter Hall
Lectures every season, and all the most
eminent preachers from all over England
gave lectures. The Rev. Father was the friend
of every one, he met every one with a smile
and a word of cheer, when I state that
in my youth I had been brought up
to abhor and detest Catholics, the life
of that dear old man gave me a broader
view of life; and I owe much to his life and
example if I have accomplish anything in
after life, and my memory of his friendship
I will carry with me through life. The
Catholic ^{stone} church was ^{not} the first built but there
was a little wooden one built nearer to the
bridge before the stone one, and there are
many Tales and Legends floating around

that there was never any service held
in the old Stone Church the Church was
blessed and dedicated ^{By Bishop}

Demers and service held in for some ten
(10) years the reason service was discontinued
was when the Sisters of St. Ann located where
they at present reside the distance was then too
great for the children to attend service in the
church you must also bear in mind our roads in
those days were mud roads not hard finished

The next Church Built was St. Peter's not
on the site of the present St. Peter's but about
the lane leading to the Rectory barn, I think
I am correct the Rev Archdeacon Reese was its
first Resident Rector, but service had been
held previous to his advent by the Rev Garrett
who later left B.C. and went to Texas he used
to ride up over the old Sootie trail from Victoria
once a month he was doing that service in
1864 - he also supplied Cedar Hill in 1864
where I first met him a fine ~~congregational~~ man
a good horseman, he would look after his
horses before himself, But Cowichan District
is very much in debt to Archdeacon Reese
the father of the Cowichan Agricultural Society
Cowichan Library and debating Society, at
the out-start of the library we could not get a
Librarian who was available at all times
so we set one evening a week where we met
to exchange books and he the Rev

Mr. Reece conceived the Idea of putting
in an Evening by having a Debate to fill out
the Evening and in the early 1870's we spent
many a pleasant evening with profit to all
and we went to our several locations looking
for word to our next meeting; for very probably,
we would not see any one until we met again
mind we only got our mail once a week at
most and sometime that failed us; and then
our nearest post-offices were at the several Bays
9 or 10 miles away, but oh the neighbors
were so kind if any one went to the Bay on
Steam boat days; he would carry home the
Mail for his neighbors, ~~much~~

The old Methodist Maple Bay was
the next church built but for years it had
not a resident Minister; Rev Bryant Hanson
and others supplied the service; in the
early 70's many other churches were built

But we have omitted any word of the old
Log Building on the North side of Somers
Lake used before St. Peter's; I have never been
able to discover whether it was built for
a School or Church; was used as both in 1870
and stood there for many years and the
name of Wm. L. Somers who was the ^{first} school
Teacher in the District taught school there
all of the Pioneer children of the District
had to go there - there was no other; and
many a weary mile they had to walk through
the woods to get to school

and our Roads in those days were simply
tracks cut through the woods stumps cut-
level with the ground, Mr Lomas used to
take his canoe across Somenos Lake to bring
his school children to school and take them
back after school, the parents paid so much
per month, and then later the old mission
building, Luamichan was built and
Mr & Mrs Lomas were in charge when I
first came to the District - 1870; he teaching the
children and she teaching the girls to sew;
that was before there were any sewing machines
at that time the Mission was by far the
prettiest spot in the District - lot of flower beds
from the Road up, The church of England paid
or made up his salary in addition to fee's up
to \$40⁰⁰ per month which was the first rate
of pay, while he was the first School Teacher
in the District he was not the first Public
School teacher paid out of Public funds, the
first Public School teacher was R M Clemens
and he taught in the first Public School built
on the end of the Lake's Road at junction
with Maple Bay Somenos Road, now known
as the Hard Road, Lomas shortly afterwards
got the appointment to (2) two schools on the
south side of the Cowichan River namely the
Beuch and the Kokasileh schools, he taught
on alternate days in each school; three days
one week and two days the next - He later

received the appointment as our first
Indian Agent from the Dominion Government
an office he was so well fitted to fill, there
have been several Agents since fine noble men
but none touched the Indian's heart the
same as Lomas, he could say anything to
them and they would take it all in good
part and do as he wished them to do, he in
some way had a great influence over them
Two men who have lived here, held the
love and respect of our Indians namely
Mr. H. Lomas, and the Rev Father Roundell
at the funeral of Mr. H. Lomas from Campbell
Came to the Long Bridge the Road was black
with Indian. Came from every where to pay their
last token of love and respect to their friend
I have all way thought how very much this
District are indebted to those noble men, mind
you the Cowichan tribe of Indians did not
bear very good name in the early days, in
fact the war ship once came up after a murder
and hung him from the limb of an Oak tree
near the Rectory, I think it has since been
cut down, while it stood, no Indian would go under it

When we look back over the years we can hardly
realize what advancement has been made not
alone in schools but in every thing the Pioneers
children often walked five miles each way
to school through dense forests with but
few settlers living on the wayside - today
a Bus you may say picks them up at their

own door and returns them home after
school; then one school served all North of
the Cowichan River and the old school held
all grades and one teacher to teach all grades
only one wagon and one team of horses in
the District in 1870 owned by those noble
Pioneers Wm and Joseph Drinkwater they had
brought them all the way from Ohio, U.S.A.,
they were Englishmen natives of Gloucestershire
came out to Ohio then on further West
to Oregon, two staunch English men
Vancouver Island with the British flag afloat,
was calling them, they first came to Saanich
where they wintered 1861. and came to
Somenos in 1862, located on Range 3rd
Section 3 Somenos District at that time they
were both Bachelors, the government brought
out a ship load of Brides on the Robert Law
around Cape Horn and Wm selected one of them
they lived very happy, a few years later they
dissolved partnership and divided the land
they originally located on 300 acres - Wm
retained the Valley farm of 100 acres - Joseph
taking the west 200 acres and built up on
Fawn Hill, two of our best Pioneers, nearly
all the Bachelors of the near neighborhood made
their home at Fawn Hill, two very remarkable
men Wm one of the good men you could imagine
when sitting milking a cow one morning his
wife gave the alarm of fire, Wm thought
what was the trouble but thought he would

finish milking his cows before going in
in the mean time some of our younger people
were returning home from a dance happened
along and put it out; Drimkwatus were
always early Risers, 4 a.m. was then time,
and our dancers kept up the dance until
day light - so you see how they fit in,
and our dances were not a very large
affair, usual held in a private house; but usually
our living Room's were pretty large - and the
music for dance was usually one Violin, but
I would say we had more enjoyment to the
square foot than you do today with 5 or 6
instruments; we use to have two events that
all attended; Red lettered days of the year;
Hawut-home with a dance held in the
Glebe Barn. St. Peter's victory and the Batchler
Ball given in some Residence, the batchlers
would invite all the married people in the
district and some from the outside also and
of course the young ladies as well as old ones
were not left out; the Batchlers provided
every thing and it would be a night given
over to enjoyment.

Well I have omitted any mention of
living conditions in 1870 I said only one
team of horses, in district and one wagon
but there were several Yoke of oxen and
some made sleds with dog wood shoes
the sled was of a natural grown crook if you

found a tree with the right crook big
enough to make two runways you would
wish saw it; if not you may have spent considerable
time locating two Crooks alike and you made
you sled at home the same as you did every
thing you needed around the house and building
then the living conditions no furniture except
home made - Bedstead, Table's stools &c.

No Cook stove open fire place a few Iron pots
with adjustable bales; to hang over the fire;
a Dutch oven for Baking, an Iron pot with
straight sides about a foot deep with Iron
legs underneath 6 or 8 inches long and also
a dished Iron Coffer; to hold your hot-coals
for Baking; you kept hot-coals underneath
and on top the legs underneath was to keep
it off the hearth so you keep fresh hot-coals
on it and under it all the time; you had
to attend it constantly, but I consider the
bread baked in a Dutch oven nicer than
out of a stove; if we had Beef (fresh) or
Venison to roast we had the choice of the
Dutch oven or hang on a string in front
of the fire; the oven some what the quickest
we also Consumed considerable Corn Beef
Neighbours would club together and kill
a Beef in turn's 4 of them and each
would take a Quarter and salt it down
in a barrel, some would eat it up quicker
than others and would be calling for more

our Baking in the Dutch oven usually on
Sundays for most of the Settlers were Batchlors
and Sunday was their cooking and wash
day usually a full time busy day. When if
possible we would try to find time to visit
our neighbours all together we had not
much spare time on our hands; but most
of us were very happy; looking forward towards
the future with hope for success and prosperity.

Our Locations were nearly all heavy
timbered, the District I think was originally
surveyed by Mr. Wells according to my
information in 1858 our settlers came in
1862, in those days our Land Laws
were such you could buy the land out
right from the Government at \$5.00 per
acre, and you got your deed for it; the
other mode was you could pre-empt
it at \$1.00 per acre but you had to
live so long and put so much improvement
there on before you got your deed, the
Surveyors furnished information to the
land speculator what sections were fairly
cleared of heavy timber and in good
locations, hence when the land was
thrown open to pre-emption the land grabbers
had the choice bits. but I do not call
to mind that any of them realized any
thing on their speculation; in fact most
of them after paying taxes thereon for many

Sold it for what they gave for it; and
lost very considerable in interest and
taxes; We have seen our mud Roads
develop into Graveled Roads, with many
light Buggies drawn by light horses to the
hard finished Roads with Autos traveling
60 miles an hour quite a difference to the
Oxen at 3 miles; our mud roads for our
then needs were better than our hard finished
Road would be; with only one Team of horses
and one wagon, could not bring ^{to fill} the need
for transportation, hence our mud Roads
with ~~with~~ our wooden sleigh drawn
by oxen served better than would have we
had hard gravel Roads, which would
have taken more power to draw a load
there on; and also after nearly every trip
you would ^{need} new shoes for your sled, so
our Roads have developed according to
our needs, the sled suited the mud Road
better than wheels, what our future Roads
will be its hard to foresee, at the present
rate of Auto growth the Roads must be
made wider and the Police must place more
control over the traffic, possible and I think
very probably our airplanes will relieve the
Road traffic by taking it into the air, I
myself have a dream that in side the life
time of some of our children we will all be
equipped with a little Machine we could
carry in our pockets or about our body with

set of wings folded up like a bird
set the little machine agoing & expand
the wings and away you go

In the foregoing pages no mention has
been made to Public or Municipal Affairs
and I was allway more or less mixed
in them I have not the dates at hand so
will give the facts as I remember them

The Government in the first place looked
after and had control of our Roads things
went fairly smoothly for some years without
any friction. They appointed a man named
Litus to take charge and administer our
Roads, a man who lived in Victoria - I will
not say what his qualification for the job, but
this he was a self contained man, coming
to the District in the summer months when
all the Roads were dry and hard he could not
conceive what those same Roads were during
the winter months, the settlers would point
out to him the bad winter spots and asked
to have them fixed during the time he was
on the job - he just went on doing work were
ever fancy led him, well the settlers were
pretty well fed up with Mr. Litus and
his work, and a lot were very dissatisfied
Wm C Duncan after whom the City of Duncan
was named - and myself had many a
talk over it; Mr. Duncan had lived in
a Municipality in Ontario before he came
to British Columbia so knew all about the

way they were worked and administered
them so we decided we would take around a
petition for the settlers to sign asking that
North Cowichan on the north side of the
River including Chemainus be joined
into a Municipality nearly every one signed
I forwarded to the Provincial Secretary
just as I was leaving BC for California
the petition was granted and Municipal
Council was duly organized, First-Warden
was the late Thomas Skinner of Fairly; Warden
was the title of its presiding officer in the early
days; later changed to Reeve; only one
member of the first Municipal ^{corporation} today alive
Mr. Horace S. Davis of Somenos. Now of
Chemainus, North Cowichan Municipal
was a success from start for many years
she lived with in her income and greatly
improved her Roads and built new ones
Then some of her leaders conceived the
idea of borrowing to give more improvement
to her Roads, and the cry they used to get
the money was "Let future generations pay
for it." Oh what a mistake the present
generation must begin to pay even before
they get the money. They don't get 100%
Cent per in the first place so they are paying
the Bond holder interest on money they never
received them, yet I believe North Cowichan
as per Capt. Roala is the lowest in BC and
her Roads have cost her less than any

Other District, in her earlier days, she did all or 99 per cent by Contract and she as allway been very fortunate in having good Road Superintendents, I have often been asked by Road Engineers and others how we had done it and the answer would be by Contract; and then few Districts have been blessed with the number of gravel pits available all over the District and drainage of her Roads usually good, all of which as been in her favor and added to all to men who have given their time and energy to the service of the Municipality. The change from her Mud Roads to her present hard finished ones as been a slow gradual development.

Well I have only mentioned in the earlier pages of my marriage to Mary Jane Davies of Nortonville, California and I could not be so ungratefull to her memory to let it go at that, I who owe so much to her companionship love and labor during which the 63 years of married life together I have often thought that I was a selfish brute to ask her to come to the bush in BC to make a home out of the wilderness you women of today would certainly Rebel at the stern conditions nearest woman neighbor some three miles away, no Roads simply trails through the bush the nearest place she could

purchase any thing wearables for herself
would be in Victoria, Steam Boats to the
different Bays once a week and you perhaps
living 9 or 10 miles away from the bays and
on top of all this the living conditions were
poor, the early settlers of Cowichan Valley were
not wealthy by any means, I had some \$300⁰⁰
when I decided on Cowichan as my future home
I paid \$150⁰⁰ to ^{Tom Nichol} to abandon his preemption
Rights so that I could re-preempt it; there
was a Cabin of logs (all our Buildings were
of logs) a barn of logs, 20x30 about 3 acres
of land cleared, all the rest heavily timbered

Not a promising spot to bring a bride
to, yet through all the years I never heard
a word of complaint at our condition and
many times there were very good grounds
for them, we all tried to save the dollar
where ever we could and what we thought
was an opportunity Mr. Crati decided to
build and operate a Flour Mill on the
outlet of Quamichan Lake the Mill was
built just below the Grunk Road, so the
settlers set to work to grow wheat to save
buying flour, well I took a Bag of wheat
to be ground brought it home, wife set
the sponge that evening thinking we would
have some home grown bread to eat
the following days the sponge did not

look anything to promising and the bread
was less so, instead of Bread it produced
liver, our flour Barrel was empty so instead
of waiting to send to Victoria for a Barrel
as usual I walk to Bodou store five miles
a way and packed a sack home
so we had the experience of home grown
bread, but I think it was a very bitter
one to her, we can grow wheat on Vancouver
Island, but too soft to make Bread,
well we had no stove or any other Kitchen
Conveniences, a Dutch oven and all the Kitchen
furnishing were very primitive, and you
would always find two articles present
a frying Pan and a tin Billy to make
tea or coffee in.

We must give some notice of our improve-
ments, our Pioneers came in 1862
there were then no Roads, the first thing a
Pioneer did after building his Cabin would
be to cut a trail from any then existing
Trail or Road to his location while we
called them Roads, we today would not
use the word Roads to describe them - a
more appropriate description of them would
be a blazed trail through the woods for
you would be watching the trees ahead
of you for Blazes on the trees about shoulder
high, good deep Blazes to keep you
on the way, for little or no work would

have been done other than chopping small
trees level with the ground, and the ground
leveled about 6 feet wide, was what
constituted a Road, but we were allway
making some improvements thereon - in the
first place many of the soft spots we had
to cordroy to get over them at all; you would
lay a long tree about 9 inches to a foot through
on each side of the Road, then you would
get your covering either small poles or
split slabs of big trees, you would split
or flatten your covering on your stringers
so they would not roll when you crossed
it and in addition you would ^{put} gourd poles
on each side and pegged down to keep
the covering down and from rolling out
of place, these when worn out or rotted
away would be replaced by first filling
in with large Rock and covered by a
coat of gravel, so our Road has been
developed by degrees from the mud Road
to the hard finished one

Then our ^{Councilmen} ~~Co~~ carried on their duties of
gradually improving our Roads according
to the funds at their disposal and so
well have they done their duty - that today
no District has any better Roads than Cowichan
and our Roads have cost us less

for some years after the Municipality
was organized the Government continued
to collect all Taxes, which they paid over
to the Municipality later, and the feeling
between ^{them} as allways been most friendly.
The Government used to impose a two
day statute labor on each individual
living in the Municipality from the years
of 18 to 65, when called out by the Pathmaster
of the District they had to perform two days
work upon the Public Roads wherever the
Pathmaster directed, and he had to furnish
his own tools, then the law was changed so
the individual could pay into the Government
the sum of \$2⁰⁰, which exempted him from
the two days Statute labor; then later it was
further amended that each Council could
impose a \$2⁰⁰ Road Tax instead of Statute
labor, North Cowichan was the first to make
the change, to Road Tax of \$2⁰⁰ instead
of two days work, and found she got
far better results, to many men under
statute labor just turned out under the
~~statute labor~~ to have a pic nic, no intention
of trying to do a days work or to improve the
Roads = mind some did a good day's
work and the Roads were improved, but
the majority shirked the work = for many
years the Councils acted as pathmasters
without any pay = but we must not
forget no one in regard to Statute labor

received any pay there for
After returning to BC from California
I have served many years upon the
Municipal Council I think 14 years as
Reer and about the same as Councillor
have seen many changes and much
development during that time and the
very many points at which we held our
meetings, but I want to pay a tribute
to our many Councillors, I cannot call
to mind any act or action of any member
there of which was done for personal gain
we often did not look at all questions
in the same way, the different Councillors
sent from the different wards to represent
that Ward and the Councillors, would
make a fight for what he considered the
Ward's right, and during all the years
we have been organize as a Municipality
there as never been a breath of scandal or
of wrong doing in connection with the
members of the North Cowichan Council
and this of its self stands to the credit
of the many men who have represented
the several Ward's for so many years
In the above no mention as been made
of fraternal or other kindred societies
my first venture was in the Sons of
Temperance dont remember the date but
in California on my first I think 1867-

it was a Temperance Organization it did not live many years, it was followed by the Good Templars which rolled up quite a membership and did good work for many years I filled all the offices in the Temple also in Grand Temple I joined the Order of Knights of Pythias in California as Charter member of Black Diamond Nortonville 1874 have served in all its Subordinate Lodge offices in the Grand Domain of California joined by card Maple No 15 of Duncan have passed through all the Grand Lodge chains in B.C., the oldest Knight both in years also in service in B.C.

I have also served ^{as} my years as school trustee of the old Someros school on the corner of the Trunk and Krocross Roads also on the old Maple Bay school, where one school district served all North of River. The first Public School teacher was R. M. Ciminson he taught in the old Maple Bay school at junction of Lake Road with Head Road - the second was Mrs. Monte first in ^{teaching} Old Mission Building until the school was built she was the second Public School Teacher in the district the next Public school was the old Someros School corner of the Trunk and Krocross Roads opposite the Methodist Church taught by Ed Stuart - Wood now of Salmon Arm. Mrs. Monte and Stuart Wood are still alive 1937.

Pioneer Women of Cowichan District List

We will our list with women who were the most outstanding

Mrs Reil Bell of Somenos. She was born in Scotland, migrated to New Zealand previous to coming to British Columbia in 1862. Sometime ago I visited the graves of her and her husband Reil Bell in the Somenos grave yard, alas to late, the stones were standing all right, but the names had all peeled off all a blank, Mr Bell was a trained nurse and midwife before coming to B.C. and in the early days we had no resident W^m in the District or any nearer than Victoria so Mrs Bell was a Godsend to the District, but our Pioneers were a healthy sturdy lot of Men and Women I think a W^m would have starved to death if he had to depend upon his practice for a living, so if any one got very sick we called in Mr Bell, and then as people got more numerous, and more women came in and don't forget in the early days our Government, imported brides by the ship loads the first Bride ship was the Robt Low she had to come around Cape Horn, and some of that load came to Cowichan as Brides so Mrs Bell's services were in more demand, but she was a most wonderful woman, full of energy and endurance she would walk from Somenos to the wharf

at Chemainus and back and do her regular day work: and she would go to Mr. Wm Chisholm at Maple Bay in the same way, and dont forget our Roads were Mud Roads, Some times in the year they were far nicer than Gravel to walk on than Gravel Road, but then at other times you would think you were lifting a Ton every time you lifted your foot: and when at last she was worn out and had to take to her bed: she would not have a woman around in the house - her youngest Son Angus was the only one of her five Children at home, but she needed for nothing - I take my hat of to Angus, for giving that Noble Woman every care and attention she needed she who had all her life been aiding the sick and those in need she passed away very peaceful, her work well done

Next we will write a few lines upon another equally as Noble in every way Mrs Archibald Keir - a Noble Pioneer Woman a fine sympathetic woman, she Mothered all the Bachelors of the District and some from beyond, and oft times they needed Mothering many just from the old home land and away from their mother's apron strings and the mother's influence, some kept upon the straight road - by her advice and sympathy many a young man in after years had reason to call her blessed, when you entered

her door you felt you were home - and it was the rendezvous of all even before the Post Office was established there; we were all indebted to her more than was ever repaid, her house was thrown open to all dissenting Ministers for their use long before any church was built - and many of our first pioneers looking for locations were fed at her table and rested their weary legs before proceeding along their way - it was tiring climbing over logs through the Bush and many a man has called down blessing upon her head - A fine Noble Woman.

Next we must write a few lines about a woman Cowichan District is very much indebted to Mrs David Alexander of Oak Bank - (Senior) there was a later Mrs David Alexander, a daughter in law, Cowichan District - as allway been famed for its good butter Mrs Alexander was its pioneer who first placed it before the public, Cowichan Butter, she was what you may call a stay at home woman, her chief pleasure was in her dairy work, there were three other women who pressed her hard for first place, Mrs Bell with all her work for other did not neglect her butter making, Mrs Bednall and we must not omit Elizabeth, a name we all would reverence by I only knew her by the name of Elizabeth for many years - her name Miss Elizabeth Blackmon, her butter could not be excelled but she first scalded her milk and made

Devonshire Cream, and she had no
churn through all the years she made
Butter, after skimming the Devonshire Cream
into a big Stone Crock she would make
Butter by stirring it with her hand, and
she made very good butter and while
writing about Elizabeth and her butter we
should give some history of her; she came
to Victoria in the employ of Mr Davis
as nurse and maid to his motherless
Children, and how well she fulfilled those
duties, she also filled the place of Mother to them
No mother could have fulfilled a mother's
duties to her Children, from Elizabeth to
Davis Family of motherless Children, and
then we must note how she came to Cowichan
she was in the employ of Mr Davis and he
had decided to make a home for his family
in Somers, so he sends Alex one of his Boys
up to Somers accompanied by Elizabeth
Alex was riding a horse and Elizabeth
was walking but add to that she was
leading a Jersey Cow along; she and the
Cow walked all the way and Alex rode
and that in 1862 everything was wild and
rough, small log Cabin no floors and no
stair or any of our present day conveniences
she got some old stoves when making Devonshire
Cream she was a fine Noble Woman
And another of those fine women we

add the name of Mrs Manly who later
became Mrs James Boal, Cowichan. That's
a woman overflowing with friendship
and sympathy and a heart so full of
generosity, you could ^{not} offend her if you
would not eat her food, and she would all
ways produce it at all hours, a woman that
bestowed her friendship upon all, her house
was open to all and she stood for all on the
south side of the River that Joe Drinkwater
did on the North a home for the homeless.

Oh what a fine noble lot of Pioneers came
to the Cowichan District, I feel it was a great
blessing and privilege to have located amongst
them to share their work their pleasures and
sorrows; for we cannot escape the late, nearly
all have been called to their rest I am the only
one left that had grown to manhood in
1870, was the date of my arrival in District.

In the words of Thompson

Men my Brothers Men the Workers

Ever reaping something new

That which they have done but earnest

Of the things that they shall do

I could write Volume's of that noble Band
of Pioneer women of the Cowichan Valley

but I will give a list of them as I remember
them omitting the names of those of whom
I have given a brief sketch of and some
names may have slipped my memory

List of Pioneer Women of the Cowichan District
 Mrs. Thos Skinner - Family

Mrs. Redmell - Maple Bay
 Mrs. John Moxley - Maple Bay
 Mrs. John Glett - Maple Bay
 Mrs. John Hale - Maple Bay
 Mrs. Milton Edgson - Maple Bay
 Mrs. Probank - Somers
 Mrs. Beaumont - Maple Bay
 Mrs. Rege - The Rectory
 Mrs. Geo. Kiddle - Crofton
 Mrs. Pat. Krinnan - Cowichan Bay
 Mrs. Shaw - Cowichan "
 Mrs. Mariner - Cowichan "
 Mrs. James Beal - Cowichan "
 Mrs. John Nelson - Cowichan "
 Mrs. Robert White - Cowichan "
 Mrs. Mat. Bottrill - Cowichan "
 Mrs. Geo. Askeu - Chemainus
 Mrs. Robert McLay - Hakroide
 Mrs. Alexander Blyth - "
 Mrs. Wm. Christophm - Maple Bay
 Mrs. James Leask - "
 Mrs. Randall - "
 Mrs. Wm. Brinkwater - Somers
 Mrs. Ambrose Skinner - "
 Mrs. Hail - "
 Mrs. John H. Evans - "
 Mrs. Richardson - Cowichan
 Mrs. Thos. Williams - "
 Mrs. Harris - John Bull Inn - "

Mrs Holling	Cobble Hill
Mrs Chapman	"
Mrs Cossly	"
Mrs Dougan	"
Mrs Bob Means	Kokasila
Mrs Walter Ford	"
Mrs Todd	Cowichan
Mrs Rutledge	"
Mrs Murphy	Glenora
Mrs Waters	"
Mrs Mc Kennely	"
Mrs Row	"
Mrs Mallet	"
Mrs Bowden	"
Mrs Merryman	"
Mrs Harry Smith	Cobble Hill
Mrs La Fortune	Mill Bay
Mrs W. R. Robertson	Cowichan
Mrs Rogers	Rogers Lake
Mrs E. L. Corfield	Cowichan
Mrs Fred Mailland	Douglas
Mrs Dr. Robertson	Quamichan
Mrs Fraser	Kumcam
Mrs Simonds	Maple Bay
Mrs Chate	Quamichan
Mrs. H. H. H.	Cheminus
Mrs Neil Campbell	Westholme
Mrs Hall	"
Mrs Frank Lloyd	"
Mrs James Hubbard	"
Mrs Porter	Cheminus

Mrs Fuller	Fuller Lake
Mrs James Evans	Duncan
Mrs Monk	Duamichan
Mrs John Menzies	Menzies Road
Mrs John Blais	"
Mrs James Auchanichie	Sattam
Mrs David Holmes	Duncan
Mrs W C Duncan	"
Mrs David Ford	Islenora
Mrs James Charley	Somenos
Mrs Sam Gray	Chumainus
The Currie family, Sattam,	Miss Currie
Mrs Somerville, Mrs Bolding & Miss Mary	and Cecil
Mrs R. May	Somenos
Mrs Willbourn	Duamichan Lake
Mrs Ashdown Green	Somenos Lake
Mrs Musgrave	" "
Mrs Kingdon	" "
Mrs John Watson	Somenos
Miss Martin	"
Mrs Herbert Hall	Westholme
Mrs Barry	Coble Hill
Mrs Michel Smith	Crofton
Mrs John Mitchell	Somenos
Mrs J. Shopton	Maple Bay
Mrs Sumner	Gibson Rd
Mrs Young	Cowichan Lake
Mrs. Hammett	Cowichan (Rd)
Mrs A. Drummond	Maple Bay
Miss Ordano	Cowichan

Mrs Pimbury

Cowichan Flatts

Mrs W P Jaynes

Quamichan

Mrs Inger = first white woman to

Reside at Cowichan Lake

Mrs Thomas

Westholmy

Mrs Maxine Allard Quamichan Lake

Mrs Fletcher (Blacksmith) Herds Road

Early School of Cowichan District

Copy of letter from the Rev Alex S C Garrett
appointing Wm Hy Lomas first School Teacher
Victoria March 18th 1864

Gentlemen

I have the honor to inform you, that
I submitted your Petition on the School question
to the Hon the Colonial Secretary who is also Senior
Member for the City. He desires me to acquaint
you, that the House of Assembly have voted the
required sum. In pursuance of his instructions
I looked about for a suitable Teacher. Wm Hy Lomas
long and favorably known to you all applied for
the appointment. I examined him in those of
knowledge required for the situation, and have
laid his written answers before the Colonial Secretary
who has signified his approval. Mr Lomas will
therefore will open School without delay.

I have obtained from the Bishop's Librarian a supply
of books, which will be sold to the children
considerably under cost price in England

I rely upon your zeal and gratitude as
sufficient to guarantee your most earnest co-operation
and assistance in carrying out this most important
measure. To wit the speedy opening of the School

I remain Gentlemen

To Messrs
Bills, Alexander
Beddall & Co
Very faithfully your
Alex S C Garrett

The first school in Cowichan was held in the

Old Log Building on the West side of
Somenos Lake of the present Horcross Road
I have never been able to discover if it was
built for a School or a Church it was used
for both purposes in 1870 and was used
by Rev St. Peter, Rev Alex S C Barnett used to
ride up on the old Sooke trail in 1864, when
I first knew him in 1864, he also supplied
St Luke Cedar Hill at that date

Copy of Memo of Agreement

We the Local Board of North Cowichan School District
hereby Contract with and employ Wm H Lomas
to teach from the date hereof at the Rate of \$40⁰⁰
per month, from such money's as may come to
our hands by virtue of the Common School
Ordinance 1869, and the Common School
amendment 1870, and we bind ourselves to
employ all the powers with which we are
legally invested by said ordinance to collect
and pay to the said teacher during the continuance
of this agreement, the sum for which we hereby
become bound, and the said Wm H Lomas
binds himself, to teach and conduct the said
Common School, according to the rules and
regulations, prescribed by competent authority
there to, this agreement shall continue in force
for one year from date hereof, dated the 12th day
of September 1870.

Wm S Reese Chairman
Ashdown H Gaun
A W Rogers

Wm H Lomas Teacher
H H Cralt
Witness

Copy

At a public meeting held 1869, been
lawfully convened after due notice
A Resolution was unanimously adopted, voting
that the School Teacher Salary should not be
less than \$600 per annum \$600
I hereby declare that the agreement between the
Local Board on the one part and Mr Lomas
the Teacher on the other part, as expressed on the
other side, was entered into on the distinct-
understanding, that the additional Sum of
(\$120⁰⁰) one hundred and Twenty Dollars, necessary
to carry out the Resolution of the above mentioned
meeting, should be paid out of the Sum collected
by the Local Rate of Two Dollars (\$2⁰⁰) per head
which was also voted. It was on this under-
standing, Mr Lomas accepted the post of
School Teacher -

Signed - (Wm S Reese
(A W Rogers

School fees 1870 = 1871

Mr Keir = 20 months @ 25¢	5 copy Book	12 1/2	75¢	85.25
Mr Bell = 28	7 copy "	8 1/2	87.50	
Mr Alexander 22 =	6 copy "	7 1/2	86.25	
Mr Rogers 21 =	4 copy "	50	85.70	
Mr Humphry 15	5 copy "	62 1/2	84.37 1/2	
Mr Reese 4	3 copy "	37 1/2	81.87 1/2	
Mr Shaw 20	6 copy "	62 1/2	85.62 1/2	
Mr Bennan 2	2 copy "	25	75	
	Total			857.75

It would appear from letters from Mr Lomas
and W.C. Ward that Mr Lomas salary was
paid by the Church of England Fund up
to 1870, and while Mr Lomas was the
first teacher who taught school in the District
he was not a public school teacher - the first
public school teacher was R M Clemenson who
taught in the first public school built in
Cowichan District the old Maple Bay school
on what is now known as Herd's Road
at the junction of Lake's Road, Mr Lomas
a few years later taught two public schools
on the south side of the Cowichan River, the
old Bench School Cowichan and the Koksanie
at Kelvin Creek - he taught on alternate
days one school would get three (3) days
one week and two days the next week

Copy of letter from W.C. Ward to Mr Lomas
Victoria April 9th 1870

Mr Wm Lomas
Cowichan,

Dear Sir

Enclosed find cheque for quarters
stipend to 31st ult as follows ~~£3, P, 4 & 97~~⁰⁰
D.C.S. £12¹³ = £109¹³ this was the utmost
that the D.C.S. could make up for the last year,
the S.P.S. having further reduced the for the
present year; and subscription to the D.C.S.,
having also fallen short of last year's receipts
am sorry this should be so, but every effort
as been made here without avail yours truly
W.C. Ward

Mr. Thomas was teaching for the Church of England in the Old Mission Building Quamichan in 1870 when I arrived here in 1870. It was the only Sunday school in the District, shortly after the Old Maple Bay school was built and the first Public School opened. But the Credit should go to the Church of England in Pioneering schools in Cowichan District, the Provincial Assembly passed the first Public School Act in 1864 but no steps had been taken to establish a Public School until the Maple Bay school, if memory serves me right it was opened in 1872. Clemenson was followed in the Maple Bay School by Miss Clyde who later became Mrs. Ambrose Skinner.

The third Public School was the old Sommers School at junction of the trunk and Kocerow Roads, opened Ed Stewart Wood, which school should receive credit for erecting the first school Flag Pole today every school as a flag floating, and she also pioneered the first Christmas Tree I really think in the province, 1886 - Miss Blair was then teacher, then our children would walk many five miles each way a long Roads in winter were knee deep in mud, now our Buses pick them up we may say at their doors and deliver them back after, in those days we had Oxen
The old Sommers School opened first Monday April 1885

Slides traveling three miles per hour
over mud Roads; and mud Roads
with sled was more suitable than
McAdam or hard finished Roads

Today many Rural School have disapp-
their place's filled by a consolidated school
with a teacher to each grade, truly the
world moves on, so Cowichan as kept in
step with modern improved conditions
our schools compare favorable with those
of our cities perhaps we could lay claim
to B.C. school system one of the best in the
world

During the first years after the Municipality
the Provincial Government continued to assess
and collect our taxes, and gave the Municipality
so much to expend upon her Roads and Bridges
and we got for more than they collected during
the first years, in the first year we asked for
\$2082.⁰⁰ we finish that year with a Balance
\$285.¹³, to give an idea of the then conditions
of Roads the following are specifications for work

Widen Section of Chemainus Road
Logs to be cut 12 feet - Trees 3 inches and over to
be cut out 10 feet wide, Grack to be stumped and
graded 6 feet wide, let to Joe Richards \$400.⁰⁰
consider the change from 1874 - Roads 6 ft.
wide to what they are at present and with
increased Auto Traffic and speed their width
will have to be increased; to meet changing
Conditions

The first meeting of the Municipal Council
of North Cowichan was held July 15th 1873

The following gentlemen composed the first
Council

The Warden later changed to Reeve

Thomas Skinner

Councillors, Mr. Wm Brinkwater

Hy Fay (Senior) Edward Marriner; Wm J
Lomas; Horace S Davis; and John Flett Senior

At the second meeting, July 30th Mr W.C
Duncan was appointed to go over the Road and
make an estimate of the amount of money
required = Duncan's report \$2400⁰⁰ the
Council cut of the \$400⁰⁰ and sent in to the
Government an estimate of \$2000⁰⁰; the
Warden was in those days elected by the Council
You must bear in mind in 1873 we did not
have many Roads or Trails on March 25th 1874
the Richard trail was ordered opened, and
we find after Mr Duncan had made his
report on the Roads he was appointed Road
Superintendent August 13th 1873. At the rate of
\$3⁰⁰ per day when on duty; previous to the
formation of the Municipality all Road ^{work} done
by the Government had been by day labor well
that was all changed, for we find on May 27th
1874, the Council sold by Public Auction, Wagon
Tools, Tools, and Cooking outfit, and all Road
work for the future was to be done by contract
The Road Superintendent would draw up
specification for the work to be done; and

Richard's trail cost - \$195⁰⁰ to build

invite tenders to be sent in to the Council
by a certain date, those specifications were
posted in many places in the Municipality
and also in points on the South of the River
and competition in tendering was very keen
and they certainly got value for their money
we find July 29th 1874 a Petition was presented
to them to build a wharf at Maple Bay. Mr.
Beaumont owned a wharf about where the
Maple Inn now stand a poor and unsafe
one and he charged wharfage on everything
that passed over it and the Settlers thought
that a free wharf was as necessary as a free
wharf and also a safe wharf. The estimate
to build a wharf was \$1000⁰⁰ it was built
by tender by Joseph Richards and Hugh
Drummond \$740⁰⁰ and they had previously
given up their rights to the wharf lots.

We had not many Roads in those days
and it was a busy time for the Councillors
to locate new Roads and keep in repair
the existing ones laying out Contracts and
paying them when done. The appointment
of Mr. Duncan as Road Superintendent.

relieved them of a great deal of work, but
they generally went with him when he laid
out work, an item of interest would be the
building of the Mercey Road from the
Cowichan Lake to the Mercey location on
the River side nearly three miles long
the rule of the Council was then and is

think it still is not to expend any Municipal money unless there were two or more residents there on, well Mr. Menzies was the Pioneer on that Road and his location was at the extreme end, well soon after he had built the Road many settlers located there on, and Mr. Menzies was entitled to pay for work done on Road not only the length of Road there was a very long Bridge over the big Creek, far longer than there now for there been a lot filled in and the Council were so very generous they gave him \$50⁰⁰ for his work took it over and made a Public Road of it, April 8th 1874 Mr. Archie Dodds wrote the Council for a Road he was located on Cowichan Flatts, there were no Bridges or Roads across the flatts in those days, May 18th 1874 Clerk instructed to call for tenders to construct Horcross Road from the Wesleyan Church on Frank Road to a connection with the Somers or Mapley Bay Road, Mr. James Reid tender was for \$398⁰⁰ including Bridge across Evans Creek, there was a John Evans previous to me =

In 1874 the Provincial Government took over the Frank Road

We should state when the wharf was first built fees were charged much the same as usual fees for wharf age with this exception that, boxes of butter eggs and Produce went free, all fees were abolished

January 17th 1876

June 19th 1855 In May, John Watson and others petition the Council to construct the May Road

- X A vote was taken in regard to building of Wharf at Maple Bay result for 127 - against 27 Estimate sent to Government for Roads was for \$6000⁰⁰ including \$1000⁰⁰ for wharf July 24th 1876, was change following the swamp instead of going straight over the Hill it was a very narrow grade when first built just room for a wagon to travel by two met one would have to stay at one end until the other got through

March 25th 1876 By the Senior was appointed Clerk and Assessor, Harro Morley had been the first clerk January 17-1887 Mr. Lera introduced a By law to indentify the Councillors at the rate of \$2⁰⁰ per day but confined their meeting to 12 during the year, the bylaw was submitted to a vote by the rate payers vote in favor of by law a request was made to C. C. of S. Works, to declare Road from the Hill. Methodist Church to connect with Common Maple Bay Road this Road is known as the Horcross Road Some actions of Council could not been according to law, at a special meeting Feb^r 8th 1877 a resolution was passed asking the Provincial Government legalize all acts done by the Council since January 1875 - November 3rd 1877 - a by law was passed of 50⁰⁰ votes qualification Tax - the

proceed of said Tax to pay a bounty
of 50¢ a dozen heads of Blue jays. The Blue
jay at that time was very troublesome
destroying crops. Today they are pretty nearly
extinct. Council suspended payment of clearing
roads except by order of Council. They had
been receiving many bills for clearing without
any authorization, which during the year
would amount to quite a sum.

In 1878 the first Telegraph line was
built and the Council, had considerable
trouble with the Contractors and poles
left in Road. The Council certainly kept
down the expenses. They authorized the building
of a pile driver, but not to exceed \$50.⁰⁰
and the House of Assembly was petitioned not
to make any change in the number of Council
in North Cowichan or to incorporate it into
a County Council.

The 1880 election there were two running
for the Office of Reeve, Wm. H. Lomas and
John Beaumont. Result Beaumont 2
Lomas 23. Petition to the Council from the
Anti Chinese Ass against Chinese. Council
tells no Chinese in the Municipality.

Mr. Geo. Askew owner Chumainus Saw Mills
leaving Mr. Askew with a large family to
support. The Council donated fuel the taxes for
1880, May 22nd Clerk's salary cut from \$120.⁰⁰
per year to \$75.⁰⁰ Sept 4th no Councilmen to let
any work upon our Roads without consulting the
Council

It may be of interest to state in regards to
Statue Labor a report.

Comemaker 22 worked & did not.

Somenos 10 worked & did not 3 paid

Zuamicken all had worked except 1

The Council often exceeded her powers take
for instance Fred Inwood living outside
of the Municipal Boundary summoned
for non payment of Statue Labor. And
he paid it; and he had sat as Councillor
but the Council spent money far over the
boundary. I call to mind they expended
money up Currier Creek bridge = see next page
Council had considerable trouble with
Owners of Steam boats flying up the
Coast; Mr Spratt and others swinging their
boats upon the wharf coming in and leaving
Sutton Trail was before the Council and a
^{see next}
^{page} report of Committee that it could not go an
lower toward water on account of Rock Bluffs
Some business houses had been opened on
Sunday. Mr Duncan gave notice of by law
with object of shutting all up
an amendment to Municipal act North Cove
may still have 7 Councillors
W.P. Jaynes in 1883 Councillor Zuamicken
Ward Mr Beaumont objected to him taking
his seat not having property qualification
he did not take his seat. R.M. Millar elected
The Council were considering replacing
of our Wooden Culverts by use of stone

a Committee appointed to look for suitable stone, in the days of wooden Culverts every meeting took up a certain amount of time in ordering repair or rebuilding Culverts and I mind we once had a damage suit and had to pay for a horse.

The Council of the early 1880 had very considerable trouble in connection with the Lomenos long bridge Mr. Hugh Bell one of the best Road men the District ever had and he conducted some of our best Road improvements, he had a contract to build the Long Bridge he spent very considerable of both time and money and appeared before the Council stating he could not build it his crib fell toppled over side way he got nothing for his work done.

May 10th 1884. The Council asked the Provincial Government to construct a Road to Cowichan Lake.

The clerk was instructed to write the Superintendent of Provincial Telegraph that the poles and wires were in a dangerous state and requested he have them placed in repair. Instruction issued to pathonastus Bell and Davis to have bridge across Currier Creek repaired Feb 15th 1885.

March 7th 1885. Statute Labor by Law repealed and Road Tax of \$2⁰⁰ passed.

Rips bus passing on Roads (upon his train) Sutton allowed to spend Rd Tax collected

The Evening Bells

"Those Evening Bells, - those evening bells
Flow many a tale their music tell
Of youth, and home, and native clime
When, I last heard their soothing chime

"Those pleasant hours have passed away
And many a heart, that then was gay,
Within the tomb, now darkly dwells
And hears no more those evening bells

"And so 'twill be when I am gone
That tuneful peal will still ring on
When other bards shall walk those dells
And sing your praise, sweet evening bells

On visiting a scene of childhood some
Long years had elapsed since I gazed on the
Which my fancy still robed in its freshness of green
The spot where, a school-boy all thoughtless I strayed
By the side of the stream, in the gloom of the shade

I thought of the friends, who had roamed with me there
When the sky was so blue, and the flowers were so fair,
All scattered - all sundried by mountain and wave
And some in the silent embrace of the grave

I thought of the green banks that circled around
With wild flowers and sweet-brier & eglantine crowned

I thought of the river, all quiet and bright
As the face of the sky on a blue summer night

And I thought of the trees under which we had ^{strayed}
Of the broad leafy boughs with their coolness of shade
And I hoped though disfigured, some token to find
Of the names and the carvings impressed on the wood

All eager I hastened the scene to behold
Render'd sacred and dear by the feelings of old
And I dared that, unaided my eye should explore
This refuge, this haunt, this Elysium of youth

It was a dream not a token or trace could I view
Of the names that I loved, of the trees that I knew
Like the shadows of night at the dawning of day
Like a tale that is told, they had vanished away

And I thought the lone river that murmur'd along
Was more dull in its motion, more sad in its song
Since the birds that had nestled and warbled above
Had fled from its banks, at the fall of the grove

The Burial of Sir John Moore

Not a drum, was heard not a funeral note
As his corse to the camp was hurried
Not a soldier discharge his farewell shot
O'er the grave where our hero was buried

My Mother's Voice

Though far away I wander
From the scenes of early youth
I shall ne'er forget its pleasures
Hours of innocence and truth
Oft my spirit hears the voice
Of the loved of long ago
Father, Mother, playmate, Brother
Dear to love thee never no
Yet of all the welcome voices
That my memory longed to hear
It was the sweet voice of my Mother
With its tones so soft and mild

Since the birds that had nestled here
Had fled from its Banks, at the fall of the grove

The Burial of Sir John Moore

Not a drum, was heard not a funeral note
As his corse to the camp we hurried
Not a soldier discharge his farewell shot
O'er the grave where our hero was buried

My Mothers Voice

Though far away I wander
From the scenes of early youth
I shall ne'er forgett its pleasures
Hours of innocence and truth
Oft my spirit hears the voice
Of the loved of long ago
Father, Mother, playmate Brother
Teach to love thee never no
Yet of all the welcome voices
That my memory longed to hear
Thou art the sweet voice of my Mother
With its tones so soft and mild
Oft in love so gently chiding
With her wayward thoughtless child
Yes I hear that voice as ever
Though long years have passed and gone
As my mind oft wanders backward
As I journey on alone

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